

6P 3729  
L. Nelson  
#16/IDS  
PATENT  
U.S. PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. P114-03

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL" 37 C.F.R. §1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on April 4, 2002 in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

*Patti Crowder*  
Patti Crowder

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of: Gaetan L. Mathieu et al.  
Application No.: 09/527,931  
Filing Date: March 17, 2000  
For: Methods For Planarizing A Semiconductor  
Contactor

Examiner: R. Chang  
Group Art Unit: 3919

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). A copy of each listed publication, U.S. and foreign patent document, and pending U.S. application (including drawings and claims), is being submitted herewith, along with a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. The Examiner is requested to initial and return the attached Form PTO/SB/08A in accordance with MPEP §609.

This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

☐ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d))  
-- OR --
- ☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage  
-- OR --
- ☐ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits  
-- OR --
- ☐ (4) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or (4) the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:

- ☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**
- ☒ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:

- A. a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**
- B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

**PATENT**

Attorney Docket No.: P114-US

- ☒ *Fee Authorization.* Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge the above fee of \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (Order No. P114-US). Although Applicants believe that no additional fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment associated, with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (Order No. P114-US).

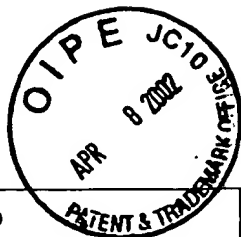
Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 4, 2002

By: 

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Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete If Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/527,931
				Filing Date	March 17, 2000
				First Named Inventor	Mathieu et al.
				Group Art Unit	3729
				Examiner Name	R. Chang
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	P114-US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>			
	1	4947481		Ikedo et al.	8/7/1990	
	2	5148103		Pasiecznik, Jr.	9/15/1992	
	3	5642054		Pasiecznik, Jr.	6/24/1997	
	4	5094536		MacDonald	3/10/1992	
	5	5974662		Eldridge et al.	11/2/1999	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
	6	JP	4294559		Koike et al.	10/19/1992		
	7	JP	3065659		Bando	3/20/1991		x
	8	JP	1152271		Nakazima et al.	10/20/1989		x
	9	JP	59149070		Mizumo	10/5/1984		x
	10	JP	2226996		Kitamura	9/10/1990		x
	11	JP	3292406		Sakuma	12/24/1991		x
	12	JP	4207047		Takao	7/29/1992		x
	13	JP	529406		Nakao	2/5/1993		x
	14	JP	650990			2/25/1994		
	15	WO	96/15458		Khandros et al.	5/23/1996		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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